

God Creates the World

Think about something really big, like a night sky filled with twinkling stars and a bright glowing moon. Can you reach out and touch them? Can you count all the stars in the night sky? How big is the moon? Could you hold it in your hands? How far away is it? Have you ever pretended that you could fly to the moon on a spaceship?

Now think about something very small, like a beautiful flower. Where have you seen flowers grow? Why do flowers need dirt and sunshine and water? And why do buzzing bees and pretty butterflies like flowers? Do they like the pleasant smell? What do flower petals feel like when you touch them gently with your finger? Have you ever given your mom some flowers as a gift?

Picture in your mind one more thing—absolutely nothing! That’s right! Close your eyes for a minute and try to imagine nothing at all. Or maybe just imagine darkness (since that seems like nothing at all). Do you know that at one time, a long time ago, that is what it would have been like—no sky, no stars, no moon, no sun, no flowers, no dirt, no trees, no bees, not even people like you and me? But it wouldn’t be true to say that there was NOTHING at all. Because there was always one thing there . . .

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

What always was? God always was. Before there was anything or anyone else, there was God. Why was God there at the beginning, before anything else? Because He alone is *eternal*. That means that God had no beginning, and He will have no end. He was always there, and He has always been alive. It’s hard for us to imagine not having a beginning, not having a birthday, but it’s really true of the one true God.

So the very first words of the Bible tell us something very, very important. They tell us about the *most* important Person of all—the one true God who always was and always will be. But they also tell us about what God did.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

God created something. What did He create? The heavens and the earth. . . . Wow! That includes everything there is! How did God do such a huge job? Did He have to go to a store to buy what He needed? (Oops! There were no stores yet!) Did He have helpers? We don't need to guess at the answers. The Bible tells us how God created everything.



God said, **“Let there be light,”** and there was light.

God said, **“Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters.”**

God said, **“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”**

God said, **“Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit.”**

God said, **“Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night.”**

God said, **“Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth.”**

God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth.”¹

So how did God create everything? “God said . . .” and it was created. God just spoke, and things were created! Could you or I do that? Of course not! No one but God can simply speak with His voice and make something out of nothing. Can you imagine how strong and powerful God must be? Can you imagine how smart and wise He must be?

God spoke, and there were millions and millions of stars in the sky.

God spoke, and there were crystal clear lakes and huge, rocky mountains.

God spoke, and there were tall oak trees and corn plants and yummy peaches and apples.

God spoke, and there were whales and dolphins and eagles and sparrows.

God spoke, and there were pigs and cows and lizards and zebras and raccoons.

Everything you see, everything you hear and feel and touch and taste, and even everything you smell is there because God spoke and it was created. There is no one else like God. He is the Creator of everything.

So the next time you look up at the night sky, remember that God created this. There is no one else like Him! And the next time you hold a flower in your hand, remember that God created this. There is no one else like Him!

**The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)**

1. See Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24.



LEARNING TO TRUST GOD

- ✦ Read Genesis 1:1–25. How was God able to do such a big job? Why did He make the world to include so many different shapes, sizes, colors, smells, sounds, tastes, and textures? What does this tell us about what God is like? Read Psalm 19:1–4 and Romans 1:20.
- ✦ Because God is the one, eternal, glorious God who created all things, how should you act toward Him? Who created you? Who do you belong to? Read Revelation 4:11. What would it look like in your life to show that God is worth more to you than anything else?
- ✦ *Activity:* Read Psalm 148, and then plan to go to a park or nature center. Walk along the trails and point out specific things to look at, listen to, smell, and touch. Then turn your observations into praise refrains such as, “Praise the Lord, you fuzzy squirrels. Praise Him, you purple crawling beetles. Praise God, you tall, shady tree. Praise Him, you singing sparrow. Praise the Lord, you warm wind,” and so on. How could you praise God as you walk along?